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HEALTH
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SAFFRON WALDEN

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Administrative County of Essex.

THE

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1942

Bloom & Son, Printers, Saffron Walden

BOROUGH OF SAFFRON WALDEN.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1942.

In accordance with the directions of the Ministry of Health, this report has been prepared on the lines indicated in Circular 2067, dated 19th July, 1940.

Detailed statistics, and references to war-time development have therefore been omitted.

The year was remarkable for the extremely low incidence of infectious disease.

S. R. RICHARDSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area: 7502 acres

Population (Registrar General's estimate of resident population 1942): 7088.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1942) according to the Rate Books: 1993.

Rateable Value: £39361

Sum represented by a penny rate: £158.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR:-

	Total	Male	Female
Live Births.	108	53	55
Legitimate	99	49	50
Illegitimate	9	4	5

Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated population: 15.2

Still Births.	0		
Deaths.	115	40	75

Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated population.16.2

Deaths from puerperal causes:- 0

Deaths of infants under one year of age:-

Legitimate	5	1	4
Illegitimate	0		

Death Rate of infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1000 live births: 46.3

In the following table the Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Infant Mortality are compared with the corresponding rates for the previous five years, and with the rates for the whole of England and Wales

	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	E & W 1942
Birth Rate	10.5	14.4	12.3	11.5	12.6	15.2	15.8
Death Rate	16.0	11.4	14.5	14.1	12.6	16.2	11.6
Infant Mortality	30.3	8.3	24.0	78.6	51.6	46.3	49.0

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
" " Whooping Cough	0
" " Diarrhoea (under one year)	0
" " Cancer	18

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Total number of Inspections	1911
Nuisances and Defects found	361
Complaints received	263
Informal (written) Notices	66
Statutory Notices served	none
Nuisances and Defects remedied ...	859
Houses inspected	203
Houses re-inspected	297
Premises disinfected	39
Schools disinfected	none
Inspections of Controlled Slaughter Houses	888
Inspections of Bake Houses	24
Inspections of Dairies and Cowsheds ..	36
Samples of water for analysis	3

Articles of food condemned, and salvaged for pig feeding or destroyed, included:-

Fish	1 ton 7 cwt
Bacon	39 lbs
Tinned and bottled foods	580 containe
Sugar	121 lbs
Other groceries	approximately 150 lbs
Meat condemned at Slaughter Houses	5 ton 13 cwt

FOOD CONTAMINATION

The Sanitary Inspector is also Gas Decontamination Officer. All Members of the Food Decontamination Squad have attended a full course of training.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK. Routine sampling work is carried out by the Essex County Council; samples are obtained from farms licensed to produce Accredited Milk, and from those included in the Milk-in-Schools Scheme.

Under the Testing and Advisory Service of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, all milk delivered from farms is sampled and tested, and all unsatisfactory cases are reported to the Local Authority whose Inspector accompanies the Executive Committee's Representative on his advisory visits to the farms in question.

While the responsibility of the Local Authority is not affected by either of these Schemes, they are of great assistance and enable the Sanitary Inspector to concentrate on the supervision of handling, processing and conveyance of milk.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The incidence of infectious diseases was the lowest recorded, and no deaths were attributed to any of the now notifiable infections.

The additional accommodation provided at the Isolation Hospital again proved very useful in dealing with contagious skin diseases amongst evacuees.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

There was a steady increase in the number of children immunised during the year. Clinics were held periodically at the Schools, and weekly at the Welfare Centre, so that there should be no delay in carrying out treatment once the consent of parents had been obtained.

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TUBERCULOSIS.

Two cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, one of whom was transferred from another area.

Three deaths were attributed to Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

CIVIL DEFENCE CASUALTY SERVICES.

At the beginning of the year, when the Freezing Order became operative, the Central Services were represented by a few effective personnel, rather less than 20 per cent of the normal establishments, and the main effort of the year was in the direction of finding new members.

Towards the end of the year, numbers of persons were directed into the Casualty Services by the Ministry of Labour and National Service, but the majority of these were found to be entirely unsuitable, and a considerable amount of discarding had to be done before organised training could be undertaken.